

INSPECTION OF FLOUR IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

JULY 7, 1898.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CURTIS, of Iowa, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3941.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3941) regulating the inspection of flour in the District of Columbia, after careful consideration of the subject, report the bill back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

This bill is substantially existing law, but two new points being covered. When the law was passed by the legislative assembly in 1871, flour was packed in barrels and half barrels, but not in sacks. Now a very large amount of the flour that comes to the District is packed in either jute or paper sacks, and thus escapes inspection. Merchants who buy flour, on appealing to the inspector for a certificate as to the proper weight and purity, find that there is no law which permits him to inspect flour in sacks. In one lot of flour received into the District of Columbia a short time since the underweight amounted to five barrels, all of which, of course, came out of the purchasers in the District, who paid for more flour than they received.

The law as it now stands permits persons to buy flour for their own use without inspection. Under this provision bakers buy for their own use in making bread adulterated flour, and the law can not reach them.

These are the only new points covered by the bill. The other changes in the law are merely changes in phraseology to make the law somewhat clearer and to accommodate the law to the fact that Georgetown has ceased to exist as a separate corporation. The number of inspectors has also been reduced from three to two, and in some cases the fees have been reduced.

The bill was prepared in the office of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, passed by the Senate on June 16, 1898, and prompt passage of the bill by the House of Representatives is urged by the Commissioners.